

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system incorporating three-dimensional visual training functions, the system used for performing assistance and training and education, ~~relating to surgical operations and other highly precision-oriented techniques performed,~~ under direct observation, by a medical practitioner while an instructor is watching a medical practitioner's surgical field image shared by the medical practitioner and the instructor through communication secured by use of communication means ~~such as the internet or an intranet~~ by utilizing three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glasses, which are worn by both the medical practitioner and the instructor and constituted of a pair of LCDs positioned directly in front of the two eyes and by three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glasses of identical standards ~~[[for]]~~ indicating image information from a right-side CCD camera on the right-side LCD and image information from a left-side CCD camera on the left-side LCD of automatic focusing CCD cameras equipped with a pair of synchronized zoom lenses attached toward a visual field of the naked eye from a position that correspond to a central section between the right and left pupils of the worker wearing the magnifying glass in front of the three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass, the system comprising:

a floater image-processing apparatus ~~[[for]]~~ removing a background image by extracting only images of a three-dimensional pointing device which is operated by the instructor to provide visual training, ~~or various kinds of instruments (dummies) identical to those used by the medical practitioner~~ from a visual field image of the instructor captured by the instructor-side CCD camera on a front face of the visual field in front of the instructor-side three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass; and

an image chroma-key composite image-processing apparatus for composing and displaying a three-dimensional visual training float image, on which no background output is performed by the image-processing apparatus on the medical practitioner's visual field image captured by the CCD camera of the medical practitioner's three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass shared by the medical practitioner and the instructor,

wherein, ~~in a minimum configuration,~~ by utilizing the pair of synchronized three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glasses of identical standards worn by the medical practitioner and the instructor, the instructor provides visual training which is three-dimensional and ~~produces a sense of reality~~ in the medical practitioner's three-dimensional visual field by utilizing images of the three-dimensional pointing device operated by the instructor ~~or various instruments (dummies) identical to those used by the medical practitioner~~ which images are extracted by floating image processing from visual field images of the instructor captured by the instructor's CCD camera and chroma-key composed and displayed in the medical practitioner's visual field image ~~(virtual three-dimensional image)~~ captured by the medical practitioner's CCD camera projected onto an LCD monitor of the three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass worn by the instructor.

2. (currently amended) The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system incorporating three-dimensional visual training functions as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~comprising the image~~ chroma-key composite image-processing apparatus ~~according to claim 1-~~ ~~for purposes of varying~~ varies a degree of transparency of a three-dimensional visual training image of the instructor by a percentage of between 0% and 100% or, ~~additionally, for changing~~ changes a color tone thereof and displaying it compositely, so that the medical practitioner can easily judge training image and in order to prevent the medical practitioner's visual field and an action of an surgical operation from being blocked visually as a result of overlapping of the medical practitioner's ~~worker's~~ work situation visual field image and a three-dimensional visual training image of the instructor when the floater three-dimensional visual training image with no

background, output from the image chroma-key composite image-processing apparatus, of the three-dimensional pointing device operated by the instructor ~~or various instruments (dummies)~~ identical to those used by the medical practitioner is chroma-key composed on medical practitioner's visual field image information in a CCD camera of the digital entity magnifying glass worn by the medical practitioner and displayed.

3. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system incorporating three-dimensional visual training functions as claimed in claim 2, further comprising an image position correction and follow-up apparatus ~~[[for]]~~ compositely displaying three-dimensionally accurate equal-scaling three-dimensional perspective images into the medical practitioner's visual field image displayed on an LCD of a three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass by automatically performing position correction always in respect of variations in a visual field angle of the medical practitioner with respect to a patient or to variations in postures of patients, by means of:

in an image obtained by varying a degree of transparency, by a percentage of between 0% and 100%, of image information from the medical practitioner's three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass CCD displayed on LCDs of both the medical practitioner and the instructor; ~~according to claims 1 and 2:~~

three-dimensionally superimposing an item of three-dimensional image information obtained through image processing and conversion, by changing a three-dimensional anatomical image of an item ~~such as an arbitrary bone, a blood vessel, or nervous tissue,~~ created beforehand from information in a tomogram ~~such as a CT picture or an MRI picture~~ of a patient on whom an operation is to be performed or a surgical stent image into which the anatomical three-dimensional perspective images are three-dimensionally composed together with a dissection or bone cutting position similarly by a percentage of between 0% and 100%, ~~especially,~~ by varying a degree of transparency or a color tone of a site or a tissue indicative of an anatomical landmark, or by applying a visual difference to the medical practitioner's three-

dimensional digital entity magnifying glass CCD image information through wireframe display [[etc.]] so as to facilitate discrimination, and onto the medical practitioner's three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass CCD image at an equal reduction rate by utilizing a reference triangular plane obtained through three-dimensional positional measurement by use of the right and left CCDs of the three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass and by using, as reference points, three points on non-deformable hard tissue ~~such as a tooth or a bone~~ arbitrarily determined from among the medical practitioner's three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass CCD image information; and by

enabling the anatomical three-dimensional image to automatically correct a change in position of, and follow, the reference point of the medical practitioner's three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass CCD image information as the medical practitioner's CCD camera position changes or the patient's posture changes.

4. (currently amended) [[A]] The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system incorporating three-dimensional visual training functions as claimed in claim 3, wherein further comprising a server storing a three-dimensional anatomical image of an arbitrary item such as a bone, a blood vessel, or a nervous tissue, created beforehand from information in a tomogram such as a CT picture or an MRI picture of a patient on whom an operation is to be performed, owned at a remote location or a three-dimensional surgical stent image in which the medical practitioner or a third party (any other medical doctor) designed beforehand a position of a dissection or a bone cutting based on the anatomical three-dimensional perspective image, wherein said three-dimensional image is composed into the medical practitioner's three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass CCD's image information according to claims 1 through 3 at the remote location and accurately superimposed one on the other to provide the respective composite display images showing an apparently entity-see-through situation, positions of which images are automatically corrected by the image position-correction position correction and follow-up apparatus in real time as the medical practitioner's CCD camera

position changes and the patient's posture changes, to distribute the images compositely displayed to a three-dimensionally correct position always to the medical practitioner and the instructor by utilizing communication means ~~such as the internet or an intranet.~~

5. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system incorporating three-dimensional visual training functions as claimed in claim 3, ~~wherein by further comprising a server~~ accumulating the medical practitioner's three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass's medical practitioner three-dimensional image information ~~according to claim 4~~ and surgical stent image information for compositely displaying three-dimensionally accurate equal-scaling three-dimensional perspective images into the medical practitioner's visual field image ~~according to claim 3 in a server~~ so that each of persons wearing a plurality of synchronized three-dimensional digital magnifying glasses and sharing the image information accumulated in the server can arbitrarily switch the surgical stent image information on the medical practitioner's three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass's three-dimensional image information between a display mode and a non-display mode and, further, can transmit to the server a three-dimensional visual training image obtained by utilizing the three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass's CCD cameras worn by them ~~according to claims 1 and 2~~, and compositely display it to the medical practitioner's three-dimensional image accumulated in the server, thereby making possible discussions through bidirectional communication on a three-dimensional moving image or a still image, by utilizing a communication line ~~such as the internet.~~

6. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system incorporating three-dimensional visual training functions as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein by providing pluralities further comprising a plurality of~~ synchronized three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glasses worn by the medical practitioner and a plurality of instructors or the instructor and a plurality of medical practitioners, ~~the instructor and the floater image processing~~

~~apparatuses according to claims 1 through 4 so that the medical practitioner and the instructor may share the images, enabling the plurality of instructors to simultaneously guides guide one medical practitioner three-dimensionally by using the visual training image, or one instructor to provide visual instruction and guidance to the plurality of medical practitioners three-dimensionally or switches and displays visual field images of the plurality of medical practitioners as occasion demands so that one instructor provides visual instruction and guidance to the plurality of medical practitioners three-dimensionally through various communication means such as the internet or an intranet.~~

7. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system incorporating three-dimensional visual training functions as claimed in claim 1, further comprising encryption/decryption means, wherein when distributing and publishing a training situation by use of the three-dimensional visual training image according to ~~claims 1 and 2~~ to a ~~lot~~ plurality of students other than the medical practitioner and the instructor or to a third party institution by using live-broadcasting or video-recorded broadcasting via ~~various kinds of~~ communication means ~~such as the internet~~, by encrypting output signals of two right and left channels output from one three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass's CCD camera in hardware of the three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass and by encoding it in hardware of the other three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass, normal image display is disabled unless a terminal having a prescribed three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass hardware configuration is used, to provide ~~a higher degree of~~ security, thereby making possible protection of the patient's privacy.

8. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system incorporating three-dimensional visual training functions as claimed in claim 1, wherein by presenting conditions ~~such as skills, experiences, and languages spoken~~ during the course of training as well as offering monetary rewards ~~for above-described various services~~ to an

operation assistant on the network by using the three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system ~~according to claims 1 through 5 having extremely large amount of information and~~ capable of virtually experiencing of the medical practitioner's operating situation, to sign a contract with a registered or technician to get the instructor staff (instructor) dispatched thereto, so that if an unexpected situation ~~such as an error in medical treatment~~ during a surgical operation occurs, ~~a location of the error~~ the unexpected situation can be clarified based on a record of information of the three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system and a responsible range is also clearly defined in accordance with contents of a contract determined beforehand based on a degree of involvement between contents of each operation and each technical field of the instructor [[staff]] and an instruction fee presented by the medical practitioner based on the contents of a contract, thereby spreading a burden of risks for compensations for the unexpected situation ~~errors in medical treatment~~ and defects.

9. (currently amended) [[A]] The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system incorporating three-dimensional visual training functions as claimed in claim 1, wherein it is made possible to objectively asses skills of the medical practitioner at a remote location by using the three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system that enables virtually experiencing an operating situation of a medical practitioner and has ~~an extremely high degree of authenticity because~~ the [[this]] system ~~according to claims 1 through 5 has extremely large amount of information and~~ is of a real time type and also capable of communication only by simultaneously using three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glasses of identical standards.

10. (currently amended) [[A]] The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system incorporating three-dimensional visual training functions as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a switching mechanism, wherein it is made possible to switch an instructing image compositely displayed in the medical practitioner's visual field ~~according to claims 1 through 5~~, an anatomical three-dimensional image compositely displayed in the medical practitioner's

visual field image, or a surgical stent image between the display mode and the non-display mode through switching that does not block operations of using the hand or foot involved in an action of operating by the medical practitioner in the case of his leadership or through wills of the instructor in the case of his leadership.

11. (currently amended) A method performed in a system incorporating three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glasses which are worn by both a medical practitioner and an instructor and constituted of a pair of LCDs installed directly in front of the two eyes and used for performing assistance, and training and education, ~~relating to surgical operations and to other highly-precision-oriented techniques which are performed,~~ under direct observation, by a medical practitioner while an instructor is watching a medical practitioner's surgical field image shared by the medical practitioner and the instructor through communication secured by use of communication means ~~such as the internet or an intranet~~ by utilizing three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glasses of identical standards ~~[[for]]~~ indicating image information from a right-side CCD camera on the right-side LCD and image information from a left-side CCD camera on the left-side LCD of an automatic focusing CCD cameras equipped with a pair of synchronized zoom lenses which are attached toward a visual field of the naked eye from a position that nearly corresponds to a central section between the right and left pupils of the worker wearing the magnifying glass in front of the three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass, the method comprising:

a step of floater image processing, by removing a background image by extracting only images of a three-dimensional pointing device which is operated by the instructor to provide visual instructions ~~or various kinds of instruments (dummies) identical to those used by the medical practitioner~~ from a visual field image of the instructor captured by the instructor-side CCD camera on a front face of the visual field in front of the instructor-side three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass; and

a step of image chroma-key composite image processing, by composing a three-dimensional visual training float image with background output by the image-processing apparatus on the medical practitioner's visual field image captured by the CCD camera of the medical practitioner's three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass shared by the medical practitioner and the instructor and displaying it,

wherein, ~~in a minimum configuration,~~ by utilizing the pair of synchronized three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glasses of identical standards worn by the medical practitioner and the instructor, the instructor provides visual instructions which is three-dimensional ~~and has a sense of reality~~ in the medical practitioner's three-dimensional visual field by utilizing images of the three-dimensional pointing device operated by the instructor ~~or various instruments (dummies) identical to those used by the medical practitioner~~ which images are extracted by floating image processing from visual field images of the instructor captured by the instructor's CCD camera and chroma-key composed and displayed in the medical practitioner's visual field image ~~(virtual three-dimensional images)~~ captured by the medical practitioner's CCD camera projected onto an LCD monitor of the three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass worn by the instructor.

12. (new) A three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system, comprising:

at least a first three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass worn by a medical practitioner and a second three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass worn by an instructor, wherein each three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass comprises a right-side LCD, a left-side LCD, a right-side CCD camera on the right-side LCD, and a left-side CCD camera on the left-side LCD, and wherein a first visual field image captured by the right-side CCD camera and the left-side CCD camera of the first three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass is displayed on the right-side LCD and left-side LCD of both the first and second three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass;

a three-dimensional pointing device, operated by the instructor;

a floater image-processing apparatus removing a background image by extracting only images of the three-dimensional pointing device from a second visual field image captured by the right-side CCD camera and the left-side CCD camera of the second three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass; and

an image chroma-key composite image-processing apparatus receiving extracted images of the three-dimensional pointing device and composing and displaying a three-dimensional visual training float image on the first visual field image displayed on the right-side LCD and left-side LCD of both the first and second three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass.

13. (new) The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system as claimed in claim 12, wherein each of the right-side CCD camera and the left-side CCD camera is an automatic focusing CCD camera equipped with a pair of synchronized zoom lenses.

14. (new) The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the image chroma-key composite image-processing apparatus varies a degree of transparency of the three-dimensional visual training float image of the instructor by a percentage of between 0% and 100% or changes a color tone of the three-dimensional visual training float image.

15. (new) The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:

an image position correction and follow-up apparatus compositely displaying three-dimensionally accurate equal-scaling three-dimensional perspective images into the first visual field image.

16. (new) The three-dimensional digital entity magnifying glass system as claimed in claim 15, wherein a three-dimensional anatomical image of an arbitrary item is superimposed into the first

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visual field image, wherein positions of the images are automatically corrected by the image position correction and follow-up apparatus in real time.